

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled, and claim 21 has been amended hereby; claims 4-6 and 21-22 remain pending in this application. Support for the amended claims may be found in the original claims, the drawings, and the specification, for example at page 14, lines 10-12. No new matter enters by this amendment.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 4-6 and 22, and his indication that claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims therein. The rewritten claim obviates the objections set forth in the Office Action. To advance the prosecution of this application, Applicant has elected to cancel claims 1-3 without prejudice or disclaimer in the present application, and reserves the right to pursue prosecution of the subject matter of the original claims at a later time. In view of the cancellation of claims 1-3, the rejections directed to those claims are not addressed herein. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4-6, and 21-22 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Serial No.: 10/051,156
Art Unit: 3732

Attorney's Docket No.: NIE0003-US
Page 6

Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

SHAW PITTMAN LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
Tel: (703) 770-7900

Date: February 22, 2005

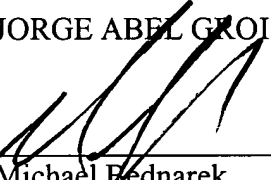
MDB/JEC/lrhj

Customer No. 28970

Respectfully submitted,

JORGE ABEL GROISO

By:



Michael Bednarek
Registration No. 32,329